



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

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(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Oceanside – Fifty Five Indicted in Massive Heroin and Meth Takedown

(U) Some of North County's biggest heroin and methamphetamine suppliers have been arrested in a massive takedown, federal prosecutors said. A total of 55 people have been charged in 10 federal indictments unsealed yesterday, accusing gang members and traffickers of selling drugs and guns, money laundering, robberies, thefts, assaults and burglaries. More than 150 law enforcement officers, led by the North County Regional Gang Task Force, swept through North County early yesterday and arrested 14 people. Thirty-two others were arrested earlier in the week or are already in custody. Seven defendants remain at large, including two in Mexico. The yearlong investigation involved wiretaps, surveillance and undercover buys.

SOURCE: 1 March 2017, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Nineteen Charged in International Fraud and Money Laundering Scheme

(U) Washington – US authorities yesterday charged 19 people with taking part in a complex international fraud and money laundering ring that tricked companies and consumers out of millions of dollars. The charges were part of an international sweep, in which police in the United States, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Israel arrested 17 individuals accused of money laundering and wire fraud. Authorities from the US Department of Treasury and the Federal Bureau of Investigation say they uncovered the organized crime groups in 2011 when they discovered a makeshift call center operated out of a Washington hotel room.

SOURCE: 1 March 2017, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) Maryland – Police Officers Accused of Robberies in Racketeering Indictment

(U) Baltimore – Federal prosecutors yesterday announced the indictment of seven officers. The officers are accused of stealing money from victims they falsely detained, writing fake police reports, lying to investigators, and filing for overtime they didn't work. The officers were assigned to the Gun Trace Task Force, a squad formed to reduce violent crime by tracking and removing illegal guns from the streets. U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein said the investigation began about a year ago, and that his office quietly dropped five federal cases brought by one or more of the officers as a result.

SOURCE: 1 March 2017, [CBS News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Iraq – Two British Medics Who Joined ISIL Killed

(U) Mosul – Two British medics who abandoned studies in Sudan to join the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) with a group of other students have been killed in fighting in Iraq. Ahmed Sami Khider and Hisham Fadlallah died this past weekend, with Khider believed to have been killed in a convoy as it left the city of Mosul, which US-backed Iraqi forces are trying to retake from ISIL. The two men had been

part of a group of nine mainly British-Sudanese medical students from Khartoum's University of Medical Sciences and Technology who had joined ISIL in 2015.

SOURCE: 1 March 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Switzerland – Data Stolen From 2,400 US Employees

(U) Zurich – Income data from 2,400 employees was stolen from the American arm of Swiss car parts maker Autoneum, the group said yesterday. "Our US subsidiary Autoneum North America Inc. became a victim of fraudulent activity using falsified identities and electronic communication channels," Autoneum said in a statement. "Unauthorized third parties received personnel and income data of 2,400 US employees by this means." Autoneum said it was working with affected employees and had ensured them access to free specialist support. Its technological infrastructure and data security had not been affected by the event, the group said, and it did not expect to incur financial damages from the breach.

SOURCE: 1 March 2017, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) Syria – Senior Al-Qa'ida Leader Killed by Drone Strike

(U) Idlib – A missile fired by a drone killed al-Qa'ida leader Abu al-Khayr al-Masri late on Sunday while he was riding in a car near the northwestern Syrian city of Idlib, a US intelligence official said yesterday. The 59-year-old al-Masri, whose real name was Abdullah Muhab Rajab Abdulrahman, was second-in-command to the group's leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri. The official said Masri, as he was widely known, had sought refuge in Iran after the 11 September 2001, attacks on the United States, and was believed to have been in Syria helping to direct Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, an al-Qa'ida branch. Masri's death was the end of an almost 19-year US hunt for him. A second US official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Masri was thought to be one of the planners of the 1998 attacks on the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

SOURCE: 1 March 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico – Eleven Bodies Found after Launch of Big Anti-Drug Operation

(U) Veracruz – The bodies of 11 people were found in the Mexican Gulf coast state of Veracruz shortly after the federal and state governments announced a special operation targeting organized crime in the area, authorities said yesterday. Police said nine men and two women were found shortly before midnight Tuesday, inside an SUV hours after federal and state authorities announced the launch of the operation in nine municipalities of Veracruz state's mountainous central region. The government attributed the 11 deaths to clashes between rival gangs. Veracruz is one of Mexico's most violence-ridden states.

SOURCE: 2 March 2017, [Latin American Herald Tribune](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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